

OPENING PRAYER: Called to Work

Oh God, who labored to create the universe,
you call us to follow you.

Made in your image and likeness,
we know that it is our duty to work,
to labor, to build up your kingdom.

Oh Jesus, who learned the trade of a carpenter,
may we, too, place our gifts and skills
at the service of God's people.

By the work of our hands,
we serve and support others.

Oh Spirit dwelling within us, guide us
this day and all days on our earthly journey.

May our work truly be for God's greater glory
and to the benefit of our brothers and sisters
wherever they may be.

Amen

GAME: What do you want to be when you grow up?

By drawing a cartoon of their future career and job plans, participants begin to see that everyone has hopes and dreams around work.

Materials:

Cardstock paper or copy paper for each participant, coloring supplies, painter's tape or masking tape

Instructions:

Give each participant a piece of paper and coloring supplies. Tell them they will have 5 minutes to draw a cartoon of what they want to be when they grow up. When time is up, invite participants to share their future career goals as they tape the cartoons to a wall.

Comment: These pictures represent your hopes and dreams for your future happiness. They show how you want to use your gifts and talents. For some of you, they are a strong part of how you see yourself.

OPENING ACTIVITY: Why work?

By brainstorming the reasons people work, participants discern the various values associated with work, and begin to recognize its importance to the person and the community.

Materials:

40 index cards, three index cards with the words “to use my gifts,” “sense of identity” and “tied to hopes and dreams” written on each one, painters tape or masking tape

Instructions:

- Divide the large group into four or more smaller groups. Give each group 10 index cards.
- Ask them to think of as many reasons as they can for why someone would want to work, writing an answer on each card.
- Help them get the idea by showing them the three prewritten index cards. Suggest they can also come up with ideas by thinking about what someone loses when they lose a job.
- Go around the room helping groups come up with some answers. Here are some you might use:

To provide for my family

Sense of satisfaction

Sense of accomplishment

Sense of purpose

To praise God

To reach my potential

To contribute to the common good (or to society)

Enjoy it

To use my creativity

Gives hope for the future

To be with like-minded people

Sense of pride

To make money (for ...)

To cooperate with God’s plan for me

To give structure to my life

Makes me happy

- Give the groups 5 minutes to come up with as many ideas as they can.
- Invite one group to come forward and post their cards on the wall. Invite the next group to do the same, putting any duplicates on top of the ones already posted.
- Continue in this manner until all ideas are posted.
- Point out the many reasons why work makes all of us stronger.
- Ask them to look at the wall with the cards and imagine what it is like for people who cannot find work (or enough work).

CLOSING PRAYER: Christ, Be the Worker

Christ, be the worker here.

May I be a tool in your hands,
an instrument of your love,
your peace.

What is it you ask of me this day?

What is it you desire that I do?

I know that your yoke is light
and that you carry it with me.

Christ, who is it that needs my help?

Who is it that needs my voice?

Who is it that needs my comfort?

You once worked as I do now;
teach me to do so joyfully.

Christ, I know that there are places in the world
where my brothers and sisters work in conditions
that are unfair and unjust.

How can I help them?

What can I do to work for and with them?

Christ, be the worker here and everywhere
that justice and peace may reign.

Amen